

Everlasting Gospel OF REPENTANCE Remission of Sins;

Held forth and Declared to the Inhabitants of
the World. That they may Turn to the Gospel, and
Receive the Everlasting Remission of Sins, and
the Kingdom of Heaven, which is promised.

A MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION
to all Mankind, every where in Christ. This message
particularly to the Inhabitants of **IRELAND**,
and to all sorts of People, Nations, even to the Poor,
and to all Parts of the Profane, and to the Profane,
that every one may be saved up to him the Lord
by Repentance.

With Certain **PROPOSITIONS** of Faith and
Love, which every one that believes, is also very earnest
believed.

And Certain **OBJECTIONS** answered, relating to the
Profane, &c. With an **APPENDIX** of a **Form**, and **Model**
GOVERNMENT concerning the Kingdom of the
World, &c.

By one that loves the Good of all Mankind.

Edward Burrows

*The Everlasting Gospel of Repentance and Remission of Sin
which is held forth and declared, by the*

O IRELAND, the day of Gods visitation of
Love and tender Mercy hath been upon thee, to try
thee, and to prove thee, and the Lord would have
gathered thy People into Covenant and Fellowship
with himself, to live in Love, Unity and Peace, and the Lord
would have made thy Inhabitants blessed, but they would not;
but many have refused the Day of his Love, and they have neg-
lected his Loving-kindness, and have chosen their own wayes
of Iniquity and Unrighteousness, rather than the way of Truth
and Peace, though the Lord hath often smitten, and caused his
Judgments to be known in the Land, and visited great destruction
on manye past, even Plague, Sword and Famine were sore up-
on thee, have thy Inhabitants forgotten the dealings of the Lord
towards thee? Are his Judgements and Mercies clean gone out
of remembrance, which the Lord shewed in thee not many years
since? And because of thy Iniquities and Transgressions, which
were grown very great against God, as was angry with thee, and
provoked against thee, and did give up thy Inhabitants to hard-
ness of heart, and cruelty of mind one against another, so that
they were given up to destroy and cut off one another, and thou-
sands of them fell through the malice & wickedness of each others
hearts and hands, and cruel Murders, Robberies, Treacheries,
and a very great destruction was committed amongst thy People;
and this was because Iniquity at that day was full, Pride and Op-
pression, Drunkenness and Whoredom, Double-dealing, and
Treachery, and all manner of Unrighteousness was grown to the
height, and therefore did the Lord suffer a very great Repulse in
the Land, and by Sword, Plague and Famine did he plead with
thy Inhabitants for some years together, even that he might
humble thee and correct thee, and that thy People might turn im-
penitent, and forsake their wickednes, and turn to the Lord, and
obey the dealings of the Lord, running into the same abominations

for since the Lord stayed his Judgments, Iniquity is increased even as before; though the Lord hath given thee Rest and Peace for divers years, and healed thee of thy Sorrow, and Miseries, and replenished thee with People, and thou hast had Peace and Fulness for a good season, but yet thou hast not made a right use of these mercies as thou oughtest to have done; though the Lord hath shewed Love and Favour towards thee, in delivering of thee from thy former Troubles and Miseries, yet thou hast turned, to thy own hurt, his *Blessings* into a *Curse*, through thy abuse of them; and now through Rest, and Peace, and Fulness, thy Inhabitants are corrupted and become abominably sinful, and they have laden themselves with transgressions, and heaped up wrath against the day of wrath, even wrathful matter for the wrath of God; and former Judgments and Mercies, seems to be both forgotten, many having abused them to their hurt, though the Lord intended them for their good, and thy Inhabitants are as before, many of them hardened in Iniquity, rather than turned from it; and they are turned into their old paths, and drinke of the same Cup of Abominations, and Pride, and Oppression, and all Unrighteousness in every part of it, is grown as high as ever it was in thee: Oh how doth Wickedness abound! Drunkenness, Wantonness, vain Pleasures, Envy, Wrath, Contention, Heart-burning, Covetousness and Earthly-mindedness, Double-dealing, False-heartedness, Idolatry and Hypocrisie, and all fruits of the Flesh, how do they abound in thee! even as high as ever before, as though thou hadst never felt Judgment, because of thy sins, and as though thou hadst never tasted of Mercy that thou shouldest live a better life; but both Judgment and Mercy by-past are neglected, and the remembrance of them worn out, and thou hast said in thy heart, We love this World, its Pleasures and Vanities, and after our wives will we go.

Oh Nation and Kingdom, this is thy condition, and thy present state; thou drinkest up Iniquity as an Ox drinketh water, and thou addest sin to sin, as if all thou couldst do were too little, and like as if thou wert appointed for no other end, but to commit sin; and thou hastest Reproof, and despisest Correction, and him that reproves thee, thou countest thy Enemy; for the whole pleasure of many of thy People is in sinning against God;

Gods had that thou thinkest to serve him with thy fast, and requiest the Lord evil for his good towards thee, and his Judgments and Mercies have no place in thy heart; Though yet thou hast been warned, for these divers years, that thy people should turn from their Iniquities and serve the living God; Repentance and forsaking of sin hath been preached thorow thee, and warning hath been given of the Judgments of God that are to come; but hereof hast thou taken no notice as thou oughtest to have done, but thy Inhabitants have despised the Lords Servants, and persecuted them, and thou hast held in derision and under great afflictions the People of the Lord, and persecuted them for good Conscience sake.

And this is the fulfilling of Wickedness in thee, and the hight of thy Inhabitants Transgressions, in that they have persecuted such who have warned them, and despised the Lords Reproof, and would not hearken to the Advice of his People, but do alwayes reject the Message of Gods Light, which reproves People in their own Consciences because of Sin, that they should turn from it and be saved; this Message hath been proclaimed thorow the Land, even for some years together, wherein the Lord hath visited thee with his Love, that he might gather thy People, and condemn their Iniquities, and save their Souls; but thy People have rejected this Message, and would not be turned from their Idolatrous wayes and worships, nor from the Hypocrisie of their ways, that they might be healed; but thy People have forsaken the living God, and rebelled against the Light, and the way of Peace they have refused, and mined their backs towards the Lord and not their face, and after Covetousness and the love of this World they have gone; though there hath been a great profession of Worship and Religion in thee, much Preaching and Praying, Sabbath-keeping and professed Church-fellowship, Ministry and Ordinances, and a Sect here of one sort, and there another, that have cryed, *Lord, Lord*, and have made a shew of Worships and Duties towards him, yet notwithstanding, Hypocrisie, False-heartedness, Covetousness, Double-mindedness, and the spirit of Pride and Ambition, and vain Glory, have possessed the hearts of both Teachers and People, in all the false Sects and diverse kinds of Religion; though they have had a shew, as if they were

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the Lords People, and a multitude of Worship, and conformity of Church-fellowship, &c. yet their hearts have not been right before the Lord, but of these it may be said, such they have professed God with their mouths, and with their lips honoured him, and in the very time their hearts have gone after Covetousness, and been far departed from the Lord; and though they have cryed, *The Temple of the Lord*; and we are the Church of Christ and Members of him, and have Gospel, and Ministry, and Ordinances; yet these people have walked in Pride and Arrogancy, and Covetousness, and their hearts have been Corrupted in the sight of the Most High, and all their Religion hath been but as the fig-leaves, by which they have sought to cover themselves; but it cannot be; For behold ye Professors and People of *Ireland*! God hath beheld your Hypocrisies, and the Deceitfulness of your hearts, and your nakedness doth appear; for though you have professed much of the Spirit, and Spiritual Things, yet you have walked in the Flesh, and brought forth the fruits thereof, and your garments of feigned Prayers and Practices, and your profession of Church and Ordinances, will not cover nor hide you from the Wrath of the Lamb.

Oh People of *Ireland*, many of you have been corrupted in your hearts, and polluted in your minds, and from the highest of you to the lowest, you are found Transgressors against God, even from the Professor to the Posthane the Lord hath found no good fruit amongst you, well-pleasing to him, but sour grapes and bitter fruit have you brought forth, even fruit of a bad taste and loathsome smell unto the Lord; and now the Lord hath found you out in your wickedness, and the cry of your Iniquities call for Vengeance; for as you it may be said, *As Nations taken with Iniquity! oh sinful People! a seed of Evil-doers, corrupted from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot*: these things are so, and they cannot be hid: But now the Lords purpose is to deal with thee, because of thy sin, seeing he is provoked against this People by their Iniquities, who have been disobedient to the living God; Therefore will he renew his Judgments of old, and withdraw his Mercies, and he will plead with this People in his Justice: his Judgments are at the door, and he will punish the four-hearted, and proud and arrogant, till they be in meekness and

he will correct the Transgressors with his Rod of heavy Wrath, till they turn to him by Repentance; and all that will not how and kiss the Son, and cease from evil, and learn to do well, they shall be broken and cut off and perish in his anger, and he will not heal them; even the Feller will come upon thy People, O Nation, who will hew down thy Cedars, and cut up thy strong Oaks, the Fanner Is coming upon thee to sift thee, to preserve the good Grain, and to separate the Chaff into the fire; thy Strength will be made weak, and thy Crown will be troden down, and thy Beauty shall be marred, and all thy Glory and Might shall fade like a flower in that day, when the Lord of Hosts pleadeth with thee, and when he rewards thee for thy Wickedness. Then Wo unto thee, and unto all the Wicked and workers of Iniquity, and he will cause them to remember what they have done; thy Sins, O Nation, shall be set in order before thee, and thy Persecution of the Lords Servants shall be charged to thy account, and the Rod of Affliction shall reach close unto thee because thereof; and as thy Rulers have done to others, so shall it be done to them, into Captivity shall they go, and the Spoyler shall come upon the Land: for *Just is the Lord, and his Judgment always before eyes*; and though he be long-suffering, and of great forbearance, yet he forgets not to plead with his Enemies, and to plague the Ungodly, nor to shew mercy to them that trust in him; And doubtles there is a Cup of Wrath prepared for the Wicked to drink, and it seemeth to be near, even a day of great Wrath & Tribulation upon Sinners and Transgressors, who have rejected the Lord, and despised his Reproofs, and would not receive the Message of the Light of the World, that they might be healed.

Wherefore, *Repent, Repent* all sorts of People, all Sinners and Transgressors, tremble before the Lord ye stout-hearted and rebellious Children; Wo unto ye unjust Rulers and Judges, that have excelled unjust Judgment in the Land, that have judged for Gifts and Rewards, and that have turned aside just Judgment, Mercy and Truth, and that have persecuted the Innocent without just cause; Wo unto you that have been Oppressors of the Poor and Needy, ye that have not judged for the Lord as ye ought to have done, but have been ambitious and will glorify

and raised up in the flesh by high Titles and Places of Honour, ye that have exalted your selves above your Brethren, and sought Honour of Men, and loved the Honour of this World more than the Honour of God, Wo unto you; for the day of the Lords Judgment is at hand, and an account of your Stewardship must you give: Ye that should have judged in Mercy, and Truth, and Equity, but have perverted just Judgment, and made the Innocent Offenders, and have not been a praise to them that do well, nor a terror to evil-doers as ye ought to have been; Wo unto you; and to the Oppressing and Falshhearted Lawyers, and that Train, who have been greedy of Gain, and served your own Ends, and sought Riches to your selves, and the Cause of the Poor hath not been freely pleaded by you; Wo unto all ye that have made a Trade of doing Judgment and Justice, and have been exercised in the Laws for your own Ends, and not singly for the Lord; Tremble ye sons of Wickedness, ye that have exercised the Power of Antichrist and the Beast, for the Judgments of the Lord are at hand to be executed upon you.

Wo unto you Great and Rich men, ye covetous and earthly Worldlings, ye that have made your selves rich by Oppression and grinding the faces of the Poor; that have got Gain by hard dealing, and added Land to Land and Field to Field, and that have over-reached the Ignorant, and oppressed the Widows and Fatherless, and that have exercised Cruelty and hard dealing to your Tenants and Servants, and have laid heavy Yokes upon such with whom you have dealt, and that have made your selves great and rich in the Earth by such means; Wo unto you, Misery is coming upon you, weep and howl, ye earthly greedy covetous Wretches of this World, who have sought Riches more than the Lord, and gotten Gain by Oppression and Over-reaching your Neighbourhoods; your Riches so gotten shall never prosper nor be blessed to you, but shall be a Curse to you, and your Children and your Covetousness will God plague; *To that have gotten Goods and not by right, shall I entice them in the midst of your dayes:* Wo unto you Carnal minds, all the treasures of them are corruptible, your Lands, Gold and Silver are fading treasures; the day of the Lords Judgments are at hand upon you, and the Rod of his Wrath will smite you, and ye shall have Poverty and Want instead

Indifferent, and neither Richer nor Poorer, and ye shall have Liberty and
Balm, and God will plead with you in the way you have
formed against him: The time of your Visitation draweth on,
I come unto you Merchants, Traders, Buyers and Sellers, that
have sold double-dealers and double-tongued, and dealt untru-
thfully in your Commodities with your Neighbours: I come unto
you that have got Gain by double-dealing, and by feigned and flatter-
ing speeches have beguiled one another, and to wit to our reach
in your bargaining every man his Brother: These things have ye
done, O ye Covetous men, ye have even robbed the Poor by your
craft and guileful dealing, by your smooth and flatterous tongue;
and if any amongst you could not see through, and discern it, such
have been your prey and scorn: and it is your use to discommen-
d a Commodity when you buy it, and to praise it when you sell it;
and ye make a fair outside to please the eye, and ye are full of pride
of words and fair speeches, and deceive the Simple, and get
Gain by Oppression, Craft, and Deceit: I come unto you, Repent
of this your sin; *Cleanse your hearts, ye Sinners; and purifie your
hearts, ye Double-minded*: I charge you by the Lord, give over
your double-dealing, and deceitful merchandize; cease to lye
and demand, cease your flattery and feigned words, and speak
the truth every one to his Neighbour, and come out of your In-
iquities; use not a bad conscience any longer, for it is a fearful
Abomination against the Lord: but kindle the Light of Christ in
you, which will convince you in your Consciences of your unright-
eous and sinful ways; and that Light will exercise your Conscien-
ces to do the Truth, and speak the Truth to your Neighbours
in all things; and this is blessed; and the Gain that is thereby get-
ten, is not a Curse: for ye ought in all your ways to reverence
the Lord and respect him, that he should lead you and guide you
in your exercises of all earthly things: *For the Earth is the Lords,*
and the Fulness thereof, and it ought to be employed to his Glory;
and there is sufficient in this Creation for all People: And there-
fore covet not earthly things one from another, neither contend
nor over-reach one another about them; neither craving up
earthly things, while the Poor want, for as ye do, ye hide your
selves from your own flesh, laying field to field, and there is no
place for the Poor: and we unto you, the Day of the Lord will

but learn the Wisdom of God, how to be contented,
and how to order all things of this Creation, and be in unity
and good agreement amongst your selves, and do not fall out and
strive, nor contend, nor envy one another, about earthly things,
but if ye have much, or if ye have little, be contented with what
you have, and do not grind the hearts and consciences one
another to get earthly things, for they will fade and perish away,
and seek not after that which perisheth, but after that which is
unto eternal life; for the Day of the Lord is at hand, and his
Judgments upon all Oppressors, Double-dealers and false-hear-
ted Flatterers, that are covetous of earthly things.

Wo unto all ye Drunkards and Swearers, Whoremongers and
Profane Persons, the Judgments of the Lord are upon you un-
awares; ye that destroy the Creation upon your Lusts, that
run into the Excess of Wine and Beer, and that cover it exco-
sively, and that drink till ye inflame your selves, and spend your
time thus; ye are like the Beasts of the field, and like the Swine
that wallow in filthiness; ye pervert the right use and end of
the good Creatures of God, and spend them upon your lusts, and
have not regard unto the living God; and one sin even begets
another, Drunkenness begets Swearing, and Profane words,
and Whoredom, and heathly Affections, and thus you add sin
to sin, and heap up one sin upon another, contrary to the Light
in your own Consciences; and thus ye serve the Devil and Sa-
tan, committing Iniquity with both hands, as it were, by Drun-
kenness and Swearing, and taking the Name of the Lord in
vain, and Cursed Speeches, and falling out one with another, and
your hands are tried from the Lord, and ye abuse your selves,
and your own bodies, which were made for the Service of God,
and not for Whoredom; and ye slay your own Souls by your own
Iniquities, and many times provoke the Lord to destroy both
soul and body: Wo unto you, the Plagues of God are your
portion, and Military your end here and hereafter; Repent of
your Iniquities, and turn from them, lest the Lord find you in
your Iniquities when he comes to Judgment; for if you con-
tinue in them, you can never be pardoned, but you sin into death,
and the Lord will come upon you suddenly, for ye must suffer
Drunkenness and Profane words, you live contrary to the Light in
your

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your own Conscience, and you sin against your knowledge, against that knowledge that God hath given you; and this is your greatest sin, even because ye do the things which ye know ye should not do; and the Light in your Conscience doth show you, that these things are evil before you do them; but ye doing the things contrary to the Light in your own Conscience, this makes your crime heinous, and your sin unpardonable; if ye continue in Sin and Prophane, contrary to this reproof of Gods Spirit in your own Conscience: Wherefore ye prophane persons, cease to do evil, lest the Lords Judgements come upon you suddenly to your destruction; and the Lord smite you, and you never be healed.

VV unto all ye hypocritical and deceitful Professors of Religion, that hold the Truth in Unrighteousness, that have a walk and a shew of Religion, and that have the name of Church-members and of Witnesses of God, but are dead in sins and trespasses; ye that are Christians by name, but want the nature, who are wolves in sheeps clothing, that have Christs words, the the Prophets and Apostles words, but want their Spirit and Life; VV unto you, the Day of the Lord is at hand upon you; ye hypocrites, ye that serve God with your lips, and with your tongues profess much love, when as your hearts are full of Envy, Covetousness and Earthly-mindedness; ye are the Apostate Christians, that have taken the Form of Godliness upon you; but want the Power; ye preach, and pray, and hear Sermons, and keep Sabbath days, and perform Duties, but ye are not changed in your hearts, but the old nature is alive, and the old birth lives in you; and ye are unlike unto God in nature, and ye walk in the Flesh and not in the Spirit; and ye take Christs words and the Apostles words, and use your tongues, when God never spoke so unto you. O ye Hypocritical, ye have a name to live, but are dead, and ye think ye are rich, when as ye are poor, miserable, blind and naked, and your souls are lean and want the Bread of Life, and ye have not put off the body of Sin, nor have you overcome your Soules enemies, but the burden of Sin lieth upon your Conscience, and Temptations overcome you daily; and though you say ye have Faith in Christ, yet your hearts are not purified, but the Old Man, with his deeds, is yet alive; and the New Creature is not brought

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brought forth in you, nor is Christ living in you, and speaking in you; the day of the Lord will come upon you, you false-hearted men, ye Apostate Christians, that hold the Profession of Truth, and Church, and Gospel, and Ministry in your unrighteous minds; your Sacrifices are not acceptable to God, nor your Offerings well-pleasing to him; for your hearts are not aright before him, and your Hypocrisie will God judge, and his Wrath will go out like fire to consume your glory, and God will cloath himself with Zelli, as with a Cloak, and with a Garment of Vengeance, and he will slay you with his Sword, and wound your Conscience with the Words of his Mouth, and your Religion will not save you, nor your Garment cover you from the Wrath of the Almighty: Wo unto you, the Mighty Day of the Lord is at hand upon you; ye Earthly Professors, who would be heirs of two Kingdoms, who would enjoy God and this World too, and love its Vanities and Profits and Pleasures, and Honours, and live in strife and contention one with another about earthly things, and about your Religion too, and are not of one heart, and mind, and soul, but are strangers to the New Covenant of God, though you hear Sermons, and say a Form of Prayer, and keep Sabbaths and Lecture-dayes, and perform Ordinances and Duties, and yet your hearts are hard, and the body of Sin and Death lies upon your Consciences, and you are not changed into the Divine Nature; this Religion will not save you, away with it all, its of Antichrist, and his spirit leads you, while you walk in the Form of Godliness without the Power, the Lord will come upon you suddenly; therefore Repent ye of your Hypocrisies, and turn to the Spirit of God within you, hear its Reproofs and obey it, and walk in the Spirit, and be ye *Chargers*, or else you can never be Saved.

Wo unto all ye false Teachers and blind Leaders of the People, ye Diviners and false Prophets, the Day of the Lord is at hand upon you; ye have deceived souls for dishonest gain, ye have run and were never sent of God, and ye have not profited the People at all, and ye have taken the name upon you of *Ministers of Christ*, when he never sent you forth, and you have kept a prating and preaching up and down, and run for Gifts, and Rewards, and Hire; ye have deceived the World, and the

Bloud

Blood of Souls rests upon you : *O ye Ministers of Synagogue* : You
 hath lodged under your tongues, your hearts have been se-
 cret, and your tongues feigned and full of flattery, and you have
 been as Canker-worms in the Earth, that have corrupted the
 whole World : Whom have not ye deceived by your Lyes and
 false Divinations ? Whom have not you craved *Peace* unto of
 they would but give you Gifts, Money and Hire ? What Form
 of Religion would not you take up for advantage to your selves ?
 how often have you turned from one way to another ? O ye
 false-hearted men, the God of Heaven will shew you no mercy ;
 ye are the men that have made the Earth drunk with false faith,
 and false doctrines, and with contention and dissention, some-
 time preaching up one Government, sometimes another, and
 sometimes being for one way of Worship, and sometimes for an-
 other : Treachery hath lodged in your hearts above all others ;
 ye have eaten up the sin of the People, and cryed Peace unto the
 Ungodly : Would ye that have gone in *Caravan* that have
 bread Contentment, Persecution, Strife and Emulation amongst
 People, and that have gone in *Caravan* way for Gifts and Re-
 wards, and would on any great man a pleasure and even curse the
 people for Money ; ye have been such as all the holy Prophets
 cryed against, your fruits and works declares it : ye have sought
 for your Gain from your Quarter, and could never have enough,
 such as *Isaiah* cryed against, Chap. 60. and such as *Micah* cryed
 against, *Micah* 3. *They preached for Peace, and dreamed for Money,*
and leaned upon the Lords, and cryed Peace to them that might enter
Peace, and prospered their way, though they would not ; and these
 things have you done, some of ye Teachers and Priests, and ye
 have been blind Watchmen, and ye have been idle and lazy
 Shepherds, such as *Ezekiel* cryed against, Chap. 34. that ruled
 over people with Force, and Cruelty, and killed them that were
 fed, and did not heal the diseased, nor strengthen the weak, but
 pushed with the horn, as such as went astray from you, and idle
 and lazy Shepherds have you been, who have not fed the Flock
 with living food, but you have caused them to drink of the foul
 waters, and their souls are lean and barren under your preach-
 ing : Oh look into your Flocks, and see what sin is brought
 forth by them, and what may be gathered from them : On the

abundance of Trade and Wickedness, of Ambition and Vain-
 glory, and Covetousness, and the love of this World, lying
 and double dealing, and all the fruits of the flesh, How do they
 abound amongst the flocks of your fold? who are in their fruits,
 and by their works not the Sheep of Christs Pasture, but are like
 Goats and VVolves under your Teaching; Can ye behold this
 and consider of it, and not be ashamed of the fruit of your wayes?
 VVhat have ye brought forth these many years? or what profit
 have the People received from you, who are yet in their sins, un-
 turned from them, and not converted to God? whereby it ap-
 pears you have sinned, and never were sent, because the People
 are not profited at all; and it grieved the heart of the Righteous
 to look into your Vineyards, and to see such bad fruit growing;
 you have been sloathfull Tillers, and have not sown the good
 Seed in the hearts of the People; but the Seed of Corruption
 brings forth fruit in them, and your Vineyard are like barren and
 untilled ground, that is unplowed and unplanted, and unplanted
 with Trees of Righteousness: Oh ye have been unprofitable
 Vineyard-dressers, and ye have laboured for your selves, and not
 for the Lord, as is manifest; and ye have been idle and lazy,
 and the God of Heaven is weary of you, and the time is at hand
 he will pluck you up by the roots and visit you with great destruc-
 tion, and your name shall be a Reproach amongst men; for ye
 have not sought the Lords honour, but your own: and ye have
 been changable in your wayes for your own advantages; ye have
 preached for filthy Lucre, and through Covetousness made mer-
 chandize of People; and ye have traded with the Scriptures, and
 made a Trade of Preaching the Gospel; and ye have made Traf-
 fick of the Souls of men: and these things have you done, and
 the Lord hath kept silence, and he hath forbore to smite you,
 and therefore have you been hardened the more in your Trans-
 gressions, as though the Lord took no notice; and you have filled
 your hands with dishonest gain in your unrighteous wayes, and
 your sins are increased every day against the God of Heaven;
 you repent not when you are warned, but reject reproof, and go
 on without fear; ye are a company of proud men, heady and
 high-minded men, ambitious and self-seeking persons, even
 such as the Prophets, Christ and the Apostles marked forth for
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Destroyers, and your fruits and works do prove it; ye have been covered with the Sheeps clothing in your unrighteous manner, and your Lecheries are almost full, and the Lord will bring irresistible destruction upon you; in a day when you cry, Peace, peace, then sudden destruction will come. Wo unto you, because of your Iniquities, the Earth is weary of you, which ye have corrupted through your false wayes, and the Kingdoms shall be under your Oppressions, and the Earth will spue you out, and the People, whom you have deceived, shall rise up in Judgment against you; the dreadful Day of the Lord is at hand upon you, ye Apostates from the Life and Faith of Christ Jesus, for of that race you are, even of them Apostates that went out in the Apostles dayes, that went in *Balaams* way, and *Cains* way, for ye are of the spirit that kills and persecutes people about Worship and Sacraments, and Religion, as *Cain* did; and ye go for Gifts and Rewards, even as *Balaam* did: These things are so, the Witnesses of God in your Consciences shall shew it, and all People shall acknowledge the truth hereof in the day when God pleads with all the wicked.

All People, *Return and Repent of your Iniquities*, the dreadful Day of the Lord is at hand, ye Sinners and Transgressors, ye hypocritical Professors and prophane Persons, the Day of Vengeance is at hand; Whither will you fly, and where will you leave your glory? where will you seek a defence, or where can you be hid? the Mountains will not cover you, nor the Rocks will not fall upon you; the wrath of the Lamb you cannot escape, even the long suffering of God will be turned into a flame of anger, and patience will be turned into sharp rebuke, the wrath of the Lamb will utterly smite you, and the Cup of Gods indignation you must drink, all the Earth must taste of it, and the Wicked shall drink the dregs; Wherefore all ye Inhabitants of the Earth forsake your Transgressions, that the Lord may not cut you off for ever, but let God arise to destroy your Iniquities, and to save your Soules; let him take vengeance upon your Inwardness, that he may forgive you: Oh! why will you dye, why will you perish? the Lord would have you to return, that he might live you in his Kingdom.

And this is the day of your visitation, the day of the Lord.

for a little season; and the Lord yet will have you and
amongst; but the time is at hand, when he will be ready to
judge all, and that determination shall be passed. *Woe to the
flee, and, Ge. Cursed;* the doloral sentence shall be pronounced
to all workers of iniquity. *His everlasting burning must they
pass, prepared for the Devil and his Angels; and shall not have the
Countenance of the Lord to refresh their souls; but in the presence of
the Lord, and of the Lamb, shall the wicked be tormented.* Where-
fore hear and tremble, all ye Transgressors: this live and act con-
trary to your knowledge, and against the Witness of God in your
own Consciences; and this is your great sin, for which the wrath
of God cometh, not because you have acted in Ignorance and
without knowledge, but because you have acted against the Light
in your Consciences, and sinned against your knowledge, and done the
things, which you knew were evil before you did them; and because
hereof you are not to be excused, but the burden of your own
sins and the guilt of them will fall heavy upon you in the Day of
the Lord; For this is the Condemnation of the World, that Light
is come into it, but you have loved Darkness rather than Light, and
followed evil deeds and loved them; and this contrary to the Light
that is come into the world; and which hath enlightened your own
Consciences.

*Certain Propositions of Faith laid down, which every
one must believe, or else they cannot be saved.*

I. **N**OW none can be saved from the Wrath of the
Lord but they who are saved from their Sins;
for Sin brings the Wrath of God upon the Consciences
of men, and Anguish upon Soul and Body; and who are
not saved from Sin, cannot be saved from Wrath; for
Wrath pursues the Guilty, and he that doth evil, sin lies at
his door, and continual anguish upon his spirit because of
sin, and the load and burden of the body of death op-
presseth his soul, and anger from God kindleth in his
breast; because he hath sinned; and he knows he is
guilty

gods of Transgression, and the Lord wounds him in his Conscience, and no man in that state can speak peace to him, nor can any live him from the Wrath of God, because he is not saved from his Sin, nor from the guilt of it: but his grief and burden is, because he hath sinned against the Light in his own Conscience: And therefore whosoever will be saved from Wrath, must be saved from Sin and Christ, must purifie his heart, and the Blood of the Lamb must sanctifie him, and his Conscience must be cleansed from the guilt of Transgression, and Christ must live in him, and he must live the life of Faith, which gives victory over all Sin, or else he cannot be saved with the Salvation of God eternally.

I I. Again, Whosoever will be saved with the Salvation of God, must own the Light of Christ Jesus in his own Conscience, and he must believe in this Light and walk in it, even the Light in his Conscience, that convinces him, and checks him for his evil deeds, and that lets him see what sin he is guilty of: you must believe in this Light, and follow it, and depart from that, and forsake that Iniquity which it convinces you of, and do that Good, which it moves your hearts unto, or else you can never be saved, for if you continue in evil doing, contrary to the Light of Christ in your own Conscience, you are in a condemned condition, and you cannot be justified of the Lord, while you are accused by the Light within you, of such and such sins, and that you are guilty of them, and forsakes them not, for the God of Heaven condemneth and justifieth men according to the Witness of the Light in their own Consciences: for it is Gods Evidence, to bear witness for God, and to accuse or excuse every man in his sight, and according to its evidence, God justifieth or condemneth all the children of men.

I I I. Again, Whoſoever will be ſaved, muſt be born again of the ſeed of God, and muſt be changed and renewed in mind and heart, and ſpirit; and old things muſt paſſ away, and all things muſt be made new; and a new nature muſt live in you, and the Image of God muſt be brought forth, which is in Righteouſneſs and true Holineſs, which is like unto God; and this is the new Creation, which every one muſt witneſs to be wrought in them that ever enters into Gods Kingdom; For ſaith Chriſt, *Except a man be born again he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God*; for it is not a profeſſion of Religion made with the lips, nor the pra-
ctiſes of Duties and Ordinances, taken on and performed in the old nature, and a holding of truth in unrighteouſneſs; this is not the way of Salvation, but it is the regenerating and making like unto God, being his Image of Juſtice, Truth and Righteouſneſs; it is this in which men may be ſaved everlaſtingly.

I V. Again, Whoſoever will be ſaved, muſt receive the Spirit of God, and it muſt dwell in them, even the Spirit of the Father; and they muſt be taught by it, and led into all Truth, to do the Truth, and ſpeak the Truth in all things; even the Spirit of Truth muſt be received; to teach and to lead in all the wayes of God; it alone muſt teach; and all the Miſeeling-Teachers of the world muſt be turned away from, by whom peoples ſouls have been deceived; all ſuch as have run, and God never ſent them; that have cryed up Teaching and Miniſtry, and through whom people have not received the Spirit of the Father; all ſuch Teachers muſt be denied, their Church and Miniſtry; and the Spirit of the Father muſt only teach and lead; and you muſt walk in the Spirit, and not after the Fleſh; for if you walk after the Fleſh, in the wayes and works of it, you are in the ſtate of Condemnation, and not of Salvation; and the Spirit of God doth not teach you, but you are out of the New Covenant of God; in which Covenant all are taught of the Lord, and in Righteouſneſs are they eſtabliſhed: the Spirit of God is put within them, and the Law of God is written in their hearts; and they need no man to teach them, but as the Spirit teacheth: and this is the New Covenant of Peace with God, into which all muſt come to witneſs this, or elſe they cannot be ſaved.

V. Again, All that will be ſaved, muſt be ſanctified, cleaned and purified from all unrighteouſneſs, by the Spirit and Word

of God; whereby every heart must be made clean; and every conscience sprinkled with the Blood of the Lamb; and the Body of Sin and Death must be put off; and the bondage of Corruption must be broken; and Iniquity must be forsaken and hated; and Sin must be judged in the flesh; and Purity, Holiness and Righteousness must live and reign in all that will be saved; and Sin and Transgression, and the guilt of it must be removed; and you must shew forth the Image of God in Holiness and Righteousness; and must be pure, as he is pure, in kind and quality; and you must walk in Holiness and Righteousness, being freed from Corruption, and from the wayes of Sin and Death, being sanctified in Body, Mind and Spirit, by the Word of the Lord; and Sin must be blotted out, and Transgression must be covered, and Iniquity must be remembered no more, and in all things you must cease to do evil, and learn to do well, if ever you will be saved.

VI. Again, Whosoever will be saved, must witness Christ revealed in you, and He must live in you, and you must be followers of him whithersoever he goes, and your Bodies must be the Temples of the living God, and God must walk in you and dwell in you, according to his promise; and he must be your King, your Judge and Law-giver, your Teacher, Father and Master, and he must be all in all unto you, even God the Father who is blessed for ever; you must know him near you, and feel his presence in you, to be your joy, life and peace; and you must have fellowship with him in Spirit, and must worship him in Spirit, and by the Spirit, without respect of Dayes, Times or Places: Every one that will be saved must come into this, and witness it, for this is the way of the Salvation of God.

VII. Again, Whosoever will be saved, must live in the power of Godliness, and must deny all Forms of Religion without the Power; all Profession of Scriptures, Ordinances, Church-member-ship; Praying and Preaching, which is not in the Power of God, and by his Spirit, must be denyed, and that part that holds it, (that holds the *Form* of Godliness without the *Power*) must be crucified; and every one must come into the Power of the Spirit of God, and must witness that to work in them, to will and to do; and no more professing of the things of God, but as they are witnessed by the work of his Spirit in their hearts: you

And not hold Truth any longer in unbelief, nor make a
pretence of I know your straightened minds; nor more talking of
Justification and Redemption, one of any of the matters of Gods
Kingdom, but according as they are witnessed by the working of
the Spirit of God in the heart; and every one must seek in him-
self the evidence and testimony of the Spirit of God to witness
the Truth in the heart (or conscience) of what he professeth with
his mouth.

VII. Again, Whosoever will be saved, must witness the
Scriptures of Truth fulfilled in themselves; with things that they
have read of without them must be wrought within them, wrought
in their hearts by the same Spirit as gave forth the Scriptures;
they must passe through the same conditions as the holy men of
God did; and the same truth that the Scriptures declare of, must
be revealed in the heart, by the same Spirit that gave forth the
Scriptures; and none must profess more than they do enjoy from
God; and all flesh must be silent from speaking of the things of
Gods Kingdom, which they have not seen; handled, tasted and
felt, by the working of the Spirit of God in their Consciences;
and this is to witness the Scriptures fulfilled, when you have
experience of the same conditions, and of the same operations
and manifestations which the Servants of the Lord passed through
and had experience of; and so that you may speak what you have
heard, and seen, and handled, and tasted of the Word of Life:
All that will be saved must come to this, and witness it.

IX. Again, Whosoever will be saved, must believe in Je-
sus Christ, and receive him; and they must take up his daily
cross and follow him; and must know him to mortifie and cru-
cify them to the world; and he must work the same things in
you by his Spirit spiritually, as he wrought without you in his
Person, or else you have no part in him; nor salvation by him:
For it is not enough unto eternal life, only to believe that there
was such a one as a Christ, and that he did and spoke such and
such things at a distance without you; for many may make a be-
lief and a profession of this, and yet perish; but Him that was
of whom you read, without you, must you receive, and witness
within you, and you must know Him as he was before the world
was, and before the world was, and He himself by his Spirit
in you must give you the knowledge of Himself, what he

was before the beginning, and is now, and what he shall
for ever be, as he is now, and what he shall be for ever.

X. Again, Every one that will be saved, must come up out of
the Apostacy into which all Christendom hath been fallen, and
must come into the same Spirit, Life and Power as the Apostles
were in; from which Life, Spirit and Power, all Christendom
have been Apostates; and they have held the words and practices
of the Apostles without the same Life and Power; and made
Sects, Churches and Ministries, but none of the same Life and
Spirit as the Apostles had of God in them; and all that will be sa-
ved must be restored and recovered into the same Spirit and Life
in their Churches, Ministry and Ordinances, as the Apostles of
Christ Jesus were in; and this is Restoration, when People come
again into the same Life and Spirit of God, which the Apostles
Christians had; as I affirmed, and been in the Form of Ministry,
Churches, Religion and Godships, by which the Power; And
unto this is the Lord God restoring People; this Day is dawning,
and his everlasting Light is risen; and his Name will be known
in the Earth; And none can be saved without the salvation of God;
but who believe, receive and understand these things.

General Objection answered.

Objection. And whereas there is a great cry by some people of
late; That there must be no more *Private Meetings*; but all People
must come to Church as they say; And that there must be no more
Conventions; And so forth; And I will answer, I will answer
this. As the Conventions, I understand you mean Meetings
out of Publick People-houses; and that there must be no private
Meetings for Preaching and Prayers; but all People must be for-
ced to come to Publick Places of Worship. Now I say, if the
Authority that is now set up, and hath the Power, doth exercise it
self in this way, then the God of Heaven will be provoked
against it, to overthrow it and confound it, if it proceed contrary
to the End of just Rule and Authority ordained of God, which
is for the punishment of them that do evil in things between
man and man; but not to impose upon mens Consciences, in
things relating to the Worship and Service of God; But the Lord
God is really Judge in such matters; and not any man; and I

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any men should erre in their iudgements concerning Faith and Do-
ctrine, and the Worship of God, that belongs to the Lord to pu-
nish, and not to any Earthly Authority.

And what! must not the People of God come together to
worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth? Must not People con-
ueen together in this Age, as the People of God did in Ages
past? Did not Christ many times preach in the Desert, and some-
times in a ship by the Sea-side, and sometimes on a Mountain,
as you may read in the Scriptures? And did not he often preach
unto the Pharisees, and sometimes to his Disciples, out of the
publick Synagogues? And might not the Jews have called those
Meetings, *Conventicles*, because they were not in their Publick
Synagogues? And also, did not the Apostles and Saints, after
the Resurrection of Christ, when they returned from *Jerusalem*,
meet together privately? for they went into an Upper Room,
and waited upon the Lord, and continued with one accord in
Prayer and Supplication? And again, at another time they were
about an hundred and twenty in number, that were in one place
to wait upon the Lord, and *Peter* preached unto them; and
were these Meetings, *Conventicles*, because they were not in a
publick Synagogue, but in an Upper Chamber, and in a private
place? And thus the Saints of old met together, as ye may read,
Act. 1. and worshipped God in Spirit and in Truth, and pre-
ached and prayed; and must not the People of God now meet to-
gether to pray and wait upon the Lord, but they must be re-
proached with the name of *Conventicles*, and threatened and pu-
nished for so doing? Oh how blind is this Generation, and how
contrary to the true Christian Spirit in their practices! And did
not *Philip* preach Jesus unto the Eunuch in a Chariot, as they
went on the way? and this was not in a publick Synagogue, as
in *Act. 8.* And did not *Peter* preach to *Centurion*, with many
others, in *Caesarea* his house? and this was a Meeting, and
not in a Synagogue, *Acts. 10.* And did not the Apostles
and Saints meet together in an Upper Chamber, where *Paul*
preached until midnight amongst the Saints? *Act. 20.* and was
this a *Conventicle*, and an unlawfull Meeting? Might not the
Jews have said, this was an Unlawfull Assembly, being in a
Chamber, and not in a Publick Synagogue? And again, Did
not *Paul* preach in his own *Hired House* for two whole years to-
gether;

And here were Private Meetings out of Publick Synagogues. But did the Jews threaten them, and add suffering upon them, because they met in private houses, and would not come to their Synagogues and Publick Worship? or did they reproach them with the name of *Sectaries* and *Covenant-breakers*, when they met together to wait upon the Lord, sometime in praying, and sometime in preaching? And thus you may see by many Examples, that the Saints and true Christian Churches in the dayes of old met together, sometime on Mountains, and sometime in Deserts, and sometime in Upper Chambers, and sometime in their own hired houses, and not in the publick Synagogues; but they were gathered from the Temple and first Priesthood, and from the Worship which God had once commanded, which stood in outward things and Ordinances; and when they had received the substance, they denyed the shadows, types and figures, and did not uphold them any longer. And they were gathered by the preaching of the Gospel into the second and new Covenant, and they met together in private Houses, and upper Chambers, and by the Sea-side to preach and pray, and to worship the Lord; and we do not read that the Jews persecuted them for so doing. And will you that have the name of Christians persecute the People of God, though they meet together in private houses, and their own hired houses and cannot come to your Temples and Scepter-houses? And will not you suffer such to stand together out of your Publick Places, but you will persecute them, and call them *Heterodox*, and such-like? Is not this worse than ever the Jews did to the Apostles? And so you are out of the Humanity of the true Christians, who met together, and preached and prayed often, and not in a Synagogue or Publick Place; but you cry against them that do so, and threaten to persecute for it; and thus you show your selves out of the true Christian Humility, and in this you are worse than the Jews and more cruel; if you should persecute People for meeting together to wait upon the Lord in their own houses, or in what place or time, as the Lord shall move their hearts; but if you proceed in this way, and will not permit the People of God to meet together in their own houses, and not in your Idol Temples: then the Power of the Lord will confound you, and God will break you to pieces, and you will

...thee with his Judgement, I have said, and I will say again, that
Not for your restraining of people from the worship of God,
and forcing them to another, and compelling them about Religion
by cruel Laws and Commandments of men; this is of Antichrist;
for you to do, and of the Devils for all forcing of People to this
kind of Worship, and from another, and imposing upon their
Consciences in matters of Gods Kingdom; this is also of Anti-
christ, and contrary to Christ and his Way: for he won People
by sound Doctrine, and by Love, and by a good Converting,
and so did his Disciples; for they never forced any by outward
violence to their Worship, nor to their Church government and
Ordinances; but it was the practice of the Beast, and the Dra-
gon, that first forced People, and compelled them to worship,
since the dayes of the Apostles. Rev. 13. It was Antichrist that
first imposed upon People in the Ignorance of their Consciences,
and contrary to their Consciences, by the Commandments of men,
false Faith, false Worship, false Ministry, false Doctrine, and
false Religions; so that now, if you should force any contrary to
their Consciences, to your worship-house, to hear and say your
Form of Prayers, we shall say then you are a minister, and of the
Devil, if so be you should endeavour to compel any further against
their Consciences, or in the Ignorance of their Consciences, to
your way of Worship or Religion.

Therefore take heed how you meddle in these things, lest
God confound you: And as for us, we are the People of God;
we fear his Name, and worship him, and cannot bow make De-
vils; and we need not be forced to worship the Lord, *for he is
in the heart of every man, and we need none of your outward
descriptions, or Form of Prayers, for the Spirit of God teach-
eth us in all these things, when, and where, and how we should
worship the Lord God, who is a Spirit, and will be worshipped in
Spirit and in Truth, which is free, and not by outward force; and
all the Worship that is otherwise, and not in the free Spirit of
Christ, is of Great Rebellion, whom the Lord will confound and
destroy.*

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Another general Objection answered.

Ques. 2. Again, Whereas it is said by some, *Now there were some private Persecutors, Rabbies and such, and were not Ordained, must not now preach any more; Lay persons must not be Persecutors: that are not so qualified, nor so ordained:* and this is the present talk among some people. *Ans.* To this I also answer, and say, VVoe to them that would stop, or quench, or limit the Spirit of God in Sons or Daughters; for such are deniers of the Scriptures and the Power of God; and such bring guilt upon their own Consciences, and work fearful Abomination against God. And what, must not the Spirit of the Lord speak now, where it is, in this Age, as it did in the days of old, as you may read in the Scriptures? for, was not *Elisha* a Plowman, and was not he called from the Plough? *1 Kings 19.* and became a Prophet of the Lord unto the House of *Israel*; and had the Spirit of *Elijah* poured upon him; and would not you have said he was a *Lay-man*, a *Plow-man*, unordained, not being so preach, if you had lived in his dayes? And was not *Moses* called from following the Flock? who had been no *Shepherd*, nor no Prophet till that an Herd-man; *Amos 7.* *12.* and it was lawfull for him to preach the Word of the Lord, though he was but an Herd-man; and had been no Prophet, nor Prophet son; which if he had lived in your dayes, you would have called him a *Lay-man*, an unfit person, unlearned, and one not ordained for the Ministry: and you, like *Samuel* the wicked Priest of *Beel*, would now quench the Spirit, as he would have done in *Amos*, who was a Trades-man, and such as one as you now call *Lay-men*, who are not (as you say) fitting to preach. And did not Christ Jesus himselfe choose Fisher-men, and sent them forth to preach the Gospel? and such as were men of Trades, and unlearned in *Beel*, as it is written, *Mat. 4. 23.* *When the Rulers saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived they were unlearned, they marvelled: and these were Ministers of Christ, and preached the Everlasting Gospel, whom you would have called Lay-men; and men unfit to preach, had you lived in their dayes. And Paul himselfe by occupation was a Tent-maker, it is said, and he laboured with his hands, and yet*

which Preachers of the Gospel; and there are many more of them
in the Scriptures of these things here than men of Trades,
and unlearned in Letters and Books, and never were brought up
at Schools and Colledges; but followed the Plough, with some
keepers of Cattle; and some followed fishing; such as these in
old time had the Spirit of God given them; and they preached
the Gospel: And what if the Lord at this day give his Spirit to
such as these, and send them forth to preach the Gospel; even
to such as were brought up and educated (it may be) at Hand-
craft Trades, and are labouring men, and are not learned at
Schools and Colledges; will you limit the Lord, and quench his
Spirit; and reproach his Wayes and Servants, and now call them
Lay persons; and say they are not fitting to preach? But they are
not Learned nor Ordained, say you; and calling them *Merchan-
tury*; and private Preachers; and say they must not now be ad-
mitted to preach the Gospel; and in this you deny the Scriptures;
and the Example of the Saints in former Ages, and his which
know the Scriptures, nor the Spirit that goeth forth: though
you say, you own the Scriptures: yet at the same time you
passe which they decline, as you deny them in this Age; and
cry against such as Hereticks who witness the fulfilling of them;
which shews you are of Antichrist; and that you speak the Spirit
in Sons and Daughters, which God hath promised in the
New Covenant; that he would give and pour forth upon Sons
and Daughters, and they shall prophesie: And are you to look
for these things now? What, shall not Gods Promises be ful-
filled? must not an Herd-man now preach if the Word of the
Lord come unto him? and must not Plow-men now speak of the
things of God; if they have experience of him; and must not
Fisher-men and Tent-makers bear witness to the Name of Christ
if they have received of his Spirit? And will you deny that
Scriptures, which saith; *Heaven has required the Spirit, and
the Gift, for his him almost all the same one to another.* 1 Pet. 4:
or, do you say, None must have the Gift of the Spirit, but such
as are brought up at Schools and Colledges? or, will you limit
the Holy One to such and such men and wayes? Oh you are
blind and ignorant, who would quench the Spirit of God; that
it should not speak in the layes; and that you are despisers of
the Scriptures: but God hath given of his Spirit; and spoken in

God given utterance, as the Saints of old said.

Now for your way of making Ministers, and Schools and Col-
leges, and to qualifying them with knowledge in the sever-
al sciences, as it is this, and ordaining them in that manner and
way, as among Papists and Protestants hath been practised for
ages: this way of making Ministers, and sending of them forth
was never known among the Apostles: for they were not thus
made and ordained, and sent to preach, nor was this way of
making and sending forth Ministers, till the Spirit and Power
of God was lost and forsaken by the Apostate Christians: and
the Scriptures make no mention of such wayes, nor give no Ex-
ample for such things, and we cannot own any Religion, nor
any practice thereof, but what we have Example for from the
Saints of old before us: and we believe that it is generally of
Antiquitie to invent and introduce such and such Practices for
Religion towards God, and in the worship of him, for which
there is no Example in all the Christian Churches, in the Apo-
stles dayes: and we believe that way of making Ministers, and
sending of them forth, which is not approvable by the Scrip-
tures, nor resembling to them, is of Antiquitie, and not of Gods
better can we own such Ministers, nor their Ministry, who are
not ordained of God, and according to the Scriptures: nor can
we deny private Teachers, as our Ministers, as you call them,
if they have received the Spirit of Christ, though they be not in-
teached outwardly, nor ordained according to what some may
call the Antiquitie, but who are Ministers, made and sent of
God, and have the Authority of his Spirit, such we own, and
cannot deny: and such the Lord will bless with his Presence,
to the confounding of all their Enemies.

Concerning Settlement in a happy Government.

Object. There hath been great Divisions and Distractions amongst
Nations for severall years; and in the midst of them the great work
been by many for Settlement, and Peace, and for a quiet happy Go-
vernment.

Answer. These things hath the Lord suffered to come to pass in
the world; even great Contentions, Distractions, and Divisions,
and much Changes of Government in these Kingdoms; And the

appearing cause of these things, hath been from the lust that hath
warred in the Members, as from thence doth Wars and Strife
arise; and many have been Ambitions, vain-glorious Self-seeking
and Covetous of the Honour and Pleasures of this World;
the lust and desire of these things hath possessed the minds of men,
and induced them to envy and wrath one against another, and
hath filled them with heart-burnings, and cruelty of mind, to the
killing and destroying of one another, by Wars and Bloodsheds,
and by Plots and Contrivances have sought how to extinguish one
another from the Earth, that themselves might be exalted: and
thus from the desires that have warred in mens minds, have Wars
arisen against the persons of men, and among them: and this is
the appearing cause of the Wars and Distractions that have been
in these Nations; though the hidden cause (which hath not so
appeared) hath been in God: and because of the wickedness of
men, both high and low, and because of their Oppressions and
Abominations, which have been many and great in the World;
Therefore hath the God of Heaven been provoked in just Judge-
ment towards Sinners and People, to suffer men to destroy one
another, and to execute Bloodsheds and Destructions one upon
another; and he hath brought it to pass, in giving men to the
fulfilling of their cruel intents, which hath been hatched in their
evil minds, every man against his Neighbour: and even because
they have been departed out of the Covenant, and followed their
own wicked ways; and Justice and Mercy, and Truth have been
wanting amongst men in these Nations: so that this is the prin-
cipal cause wherefore the Lord God hath brought about and suf-
fered these Wars, Distractions, Confusions and Distresses in
these latter dayes; and out of the Justice of Gods Judgments,
because of the wickedness of men, have these things been.

And now these Distractions and Confusions, and Discords
amongst men can never wholly and truly cease to be, till Ini-
quity and Transgression be repented of, and turned from, which
is the very cause wherefore God hath done and suffered these
things, as I have said; and so men must cease from Oppression,
from Cruelty, and from all Unrighteousness, and must turn to the
Lord, and become cleansed from their sins, ere ever the Judge-
ments of the Lord be removed, and these Distractions, Wars
and Confusions cease to be in these Land; and till men become
meek

greed and humilitie, and till they cease to seek Revenge, and to
batter; and till they cease all Oppression and Covetousness,
Justice and Innocency shall be; and till they change their greedy
Honour and high Title, which puff them up in Arrogancy and
Ambition; and even till every man forsake his particular In-
iquity; till all these things be, Distractions will not cease, nor
shall Settlement, and Peace, and happy Government ever be:
This is certainly so; for except these be removed, the Earth
can never come, and there appears to be as this day as great (if
not far more) Distractions in the minds of some People, than
hath been heretofore: and it appears to be as far from Settle-
ment and true Peace from any Illation in Government, as for
many years: though it hath been expected by many, that we
should have Peace and Settlement in Government, yet behold,
it cannot be; for there are Dissentions and Murmurings in the
minds of men, and in the minds of the spirits; and the Foun-
dation of a happy Government is not yet discovered unto many;
nor do the people walk in the way of Peace: for Iniquity is a-
bounding, Covetousness and Envy are ever, and the beardedness
and Envy, Pride and Ambition, are not yet cast down, neither
in all the Governments, nor in the Government; and this is not the
way of Peace and true Settlement; but it is the way of Troubles
and Distractions, and the very Foundation of greater Distrac-
tions and Wars, rather than of Settlement and happy Government:
It is therefore, my friends, that true Peace and Settlement in
Government, and in the hearts of men, is not yet discovered, because the
Foundation of Peace and Settlement is not yet discovered, rather
than discovered, and removed from many: and the very Foun-
dation of Peace and Settlement in the Government, is not yet
tailed up amongst men; but because Injustice and Oppression are
very much, therefore will God be provoked to bring Distrac-
tions, Wars, and Tribulations upon the Kingdoms of all the World;
and God will confound and crush in Power, Potency, Authorities,
Rulers, Nations and Peoples; and He will batter one Kingdom
against another, and overturn one Mountain against another;
and the hands of cruel men will God suffer to smite one an-
other; and ambitious and crafty men's hearts shall be suffered to
smite one another; and because of their own wickedness; and
therefore be not deceived; for the Lord God is true, and His
Word is true.

